

SUGAR LAND TODAY

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Sugar Land, One of America's Best

Recognized for affordable
housing, low crime rate
and diverse population

A national recognition confirms what Sugar Land residents already know – Sugar Land is one of America's Best.

MONEY magazine and CNN/Money recently chose Sugar Land as the nation's third best place to live. This comes soon after national announcements of our City being named one of "America's Best Places to Raise Your Family" and one of the "Best Places for Young People."

Starting with more than 700 cities, the MONEY magazine list was narrowed to the 10 best great American towns where people want to raise children and celebrate life's milestones.

MONEY magazine offered these comments about Sugar Land:

- Sugar Land offers big-city opportunities and amenities with a lot more green space and a lot less stress.
- Sugar Land is one of the country's more diverse communities.
- Sugar Land offers good jobs and is the third most affordable place to live.
- Sugar Land's low crime rate was among the nation's best, contributing to high marks for "Quality of Life."



Sugar Land's green space, diverse community and affordable housing helped it earn the status of third best city in the nation.

- Among the top 10 cities, Sugar Land's economy ranked at the top with a 30.53 percent job growth rate during the last five years.

Results were developed by a team of editors and writers spending several months of research and review of data on a wide range of economic and quality-of-life indicators.



Several years ago, we came through Tropical Storm Allison, an extreme rain event, relatively unscathed. Overall, Sugar Land drainage facilities have performed well in the past. Drainage issues are complicated, however, and no two storms are alike. And as we are all aware, the topography of our region is very flat and much of the area includes reclaimed land from the Brazos River flood plain.

Our drainage codes and standards required in new development have helped us avoid the type of flooding that some other communities unfortunately have experienced. Sugar Land City Council has taken further steps and designated drainage as a top priority for City staff. During 2004, management of these drainage needs was identified as one of the City's new core service needs.

Sugar Land is taking this heightened priority very seriously. Beginning in 2004, one cent of the current City property tax rate was set aside solely for operational and capital projects related to drainage. This additional funding enables Sugar Land to take a more active role in the planning and implementation of drainage projects and to be more aggressive in the coordination of projects with regional benefit.

Drainage Improvements

Work also continues on a Master Drainage Plan, which will identify projects and priorities to further benefit Sugar Land residents. This plan will delineate the roles of numerous overlapping jurisdictions, including Fort Bend County Drainage District, Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, levee improvement districts (LIDs), and others.

Drainage work completed during the past few years includes:

- Sugar Creek Drainage Study
- Drainage improvements in Brookside/Belknap, Covington Woods and Venetian Estates
- Flow monitor installation to capture data for drainage analysis
- Storm sewer reconstruction throughout the City
- Widening of Ditch H
- Brooks Lake Diversion improvements

We've made inroads, but there's more work to accomplish. To ensure the safety of our community during future rainfall events, drainage projects are incorporated in the City's 2007-2011 Capital Improvements Program.

Information on current Sugar Land drainage projects begins on page 10.

Allen Bogard



Sugar Land's major drainage infrastructure includes Oyster Creek and Ditch H. Capital improvement projects in 2007 through 2011 will benefit these and other drainage elements.

SUGAR LAND GOALS

- Well-planned community
- Safest city in the area
- Strong local economy
- Responsible city government
- Mobility for people
- Livable neighborhoods

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two
Mayor Pro Tem

Russell C. Jones
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager

Karen Glynn
Assistant City Manager

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Sugar Land Today is published every two months by the City of Sugar Land.
Send your comments to:
editor@sugarlandtx.gov



Sugar Land 101 members tour City facilities, such as emergency dispatch.

Laying the Foundation for Leadership at Sugar Land 101

Enriching, educational and informative are among the ways Sugar Land 101 alumni describe the 10-week course that familiarizes citizens with City government.

The class is offered free to Sugar Land residents who have lived in the City at least one year, are registered voters and are not currently holding nor running for any elected school or government position.

Applications are now being accepted for the spring 2007 session, scheduled for 10 Thurs-

days from Feb. 8 to April 26.

Classes are held at City Hall from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants are asked to commit to attending all sessions.

To apply, go to www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on "Sugar Land 101" under Hot Topics, or stop by City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North.

The application deadline is Oct. 13. Participants will be notified in early December of their acceptance to the program.

For more information, call 281-275-2710.

District Town Hall Meetings Take Place This Month

City Council members are ready to meet their district residents at District Town Hall meetings in August. They have much information to share, including some that is specific to their respective districts.

And they want to hear from you, too. Do you have a concern about your neighborhood? Want to give input on a topic? Here's your opportunity to talk to your

Council member one-on-one or take part in an "Open Mike" session. City staff will also be on hand with displays and information on various City programs.

Here's the schedule for the third annual District Town Hall meetings. Plan to attend, and bring a neighbor!

For more information visit www.sugarlandtx.gov or call 281-275-2710.

District One

Dennis C. Parmer

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, Aug. 24	6:30 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way

District Two

Cyril Hosley

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, Aug. 29	6:30 p.m.	Sugar Creek Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall, 13213 Southwest Freeway

Districts Three & Four (combined)

Russell C. Jones & Michael S. Schiff

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, Aug. 31	6:30 p.m.	City Hall, 2700 Town Center Blvd. North

Calling All Civic-Minded Students

Are you a Sugar Land resident and a student between the ages of 14 and 18? Are you interested in having a voice in your local government? If so, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) is right for you.

MYAC is looking for a diverse group of teens who want to have a positive effect on the community and City government. As a MYAC member,

you will receive monthly messages from the mayor and the latest news about Sugar Land. You will also be invited to activities hosted by the City.

Over 40 Sugar Land students participated in the 2005-2006 MYAC. Highlights included creating a National Youth Service Day project at the LYF Center that provided a drug- and alcohol-



free place for teens to meet, participating in recycling and educational events at Earth Day and helping provide Internet safety training to over 600 middle-school students.

High school student residents interested in the 2006-2007 MYAC program may register for full or e-membership and view the schedule at www.sugarlandtx.gov.

MYAC alumni may continue their membership by registering. Members are asked to commit to the full program. The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 1.

For more information, call 281-275-2710 or e-mail myac@sugarlandtx.gov.

This year promises to be another exciting mix of educational events and service opportunities.

Business Expansions Benefit Community

Economic development continues to bring investment, jobs and other gains to Sugar Land. Recent activity at the Sugar Land Business Park will result in 125 new jobs and over \$41 million in capital investment.

- **Advance Polybag Texas, Inc.** specializes in the design, die cutting and custom printing of plastic bags for retailers nationwide. It is relocating its headquarters and operations from Metairie, Louisiana due in part to Hurricane Katrina's impacts. Its planned 150,000-square-foot facility within 14.71 acres on Cardinal Meadows Drive will create \$26 million in new capital investments, 40 new jobs and future expansion opportunities. Advance Polybag Texas operates five plants in the U.S. and one in Thailand.

- **Naztec, Inc.**, a Sugar Land firm for more than 20 years, specializes in the design and construction of traffic management systems, including the system in Sugar Land (see page 9). The company plans to construct a new 97,000-square-foot headquarters and manufacturing facility on Park West Drive to replace its 30,000-square-foot Park Two Drive facility. The new facility will add \$5.2 million in investment to the community and allow Naztec to add another 25 employees to its current 50. The family-owned firm has offices in Florida, Virginia and Texas and serves customers in North and South America.

- **Tramontina USA, Inc.**, a leading international designer and manufacturer of

Recent Economic Development Success at Sugar Land Business Park

Company	New capital investment to be created	New jobs
Advance Polybag Texas	\$26 million	40
Naztec	\$5.2 million	25
Tramontina	\$10 million	60
TOTAL	\$41.2 million	125

cookware and cutlery, will expand its Gillingham Drive facility by 175,000 square feet, creating over \$10 million in new capital investment. The expanded Sugar Land facility will house new finishing and assembly lines for cookware vessels made in Wisconsin and add shipping and warehouse space. Sixty new jobs and over \$17 million in new taxable value for the City will

be the result. The company was granted a tax abatement incentive in April for real and personal property improvements. Tramontina currently occupies the City's largest business facility at 1.4 million square feet. Based in Brazil, the company's North American headquarters are in Sugar Land, where it has been since 1998.

Block Grant Program Builds New Streets in Mayfield Park

Street in the Mayfield Park subdivision are being improved with funds from Sugar Land's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The second phase of a five-year street rehabilitation project is in progress. Aging infrastructure is being upgraded to City standards, resulting in improved drainage and pedestrian safety. The street rehab project includes the removal of asphalt streets with open drainage and replacing them with concrete streets with curbs, gutters, storm sewers and sidewalks.

Sugar Land began work in 2005 with design and engineering for all of the streets, followed

by the completion of Avenues G and H. Construction is underway on Avenue F with Avenue E planned for 2007. Pending funding, work on Pine and Ash Streets is planned for completion in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

The rehabilitated streets build upon the City's previous successful CDBG projects in the Mayfield Park area, including the 2002 purchase of a 1.7-acre neighborhood park and the 2003 reconstruction of Live Oak Street.

Since the program's inception in 2002, the City has dedicated over \$569,829 of CDBG funds to infrastructure projects in Mayfield Park, matched by \$317,714 from the City's General Fund.

Celebrity Chef Celebrates Opening



Celebrity Chef **Wolfgang Puck** led the grand opening celebration at his namesake Wolfgang Puck Gourmet Express in June. The restaurant is located at The Market at Town Center, 2735 Town Center Boulevard North. Puck entertained attendees with cooking demonstrations and he signed his latest cookbook. The restaurant is the second Express in the Houston area. Puck's other business ventures include fine dining restaurants such as Spago and Granita, six cookbooks, Food Network shows and newspaper columns. He commented that Sugar Land would provide the inspiration to create new "sweet" dishes.



Parents and kids took advantage of a sunny June day to talk with pilots and view all types of general aviation aircraft.

Airport Open House Welcomes Community

Sugar Land Regional Airport recently opened its doors to an estimated 1200 residents to celebrate its new \$5 million, 20,000-square-foot terminal.

The Airport Policy Advisory Board hosted the June 10 event that highlighted the terminal's

amenities, such as larger passenger waiting areas, conference rooms, rental car services from Hertz and Enterprise, an expanded pilot lounge and WIFI. Coffee and pilot shops will open soon.

Visitors got a close-up look at corporate and general aviation aircraft, including helicopters,

war birds, gliders and a Navy F-18 Hornet.

Several lucky residents won aircraft rides donated by the onsite flight school and other aviation businesses.

City staff led tours of the facility. Visitors also learned about airport operations and future

development plans. The airport is the largest corporate aviation airport within the Houston Metropolitan area. It strives to be a good neighbor to the community through its voluntary noise mitigation plan, continued safety initiatives and by generating revenues for the community.



Sugar Land Preparing for Pandemic Influenza

In response to U. S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt's call for pandemic influenza preparation, Sugar Land is taking the following steps:

- A new section of the City's Emergency Operations Plan addresses the threat of disease outbreak.
- A physician has been appointed as the City's Health Authority.
- City officials are participating in local and regional planning

efforts and meeting with public health officials and health care providers to improve the coordination of resources.

- Specific information on pandemic preparedness was included in the 2006 Emergency Preparedness Guide, which was recently mailed to every Sugar Land household and business.

Local preparations position the City to respond to a possible outbreak of the H5N1 influenza,

but it's important to note, there have been **no reported cases of H5N1 influenza in the United States.**

The City's appointment of Dr. Joe Anzaldúa, who also serves as the City's medical director, to the position of Health Authority enhances Sugar Land's ability to manage a disease outbreak. He was unanimously appointed by City Council in June and will be responsible for:

- aiding disease prevention and suppression efforts;
- establishing, maintaining and enforcing a quarantine within Sugar Land; and
- reporting the presence of contagious, infectious and dangerous epidemic diseases to the City.

For more information on pandemic influenza, visit the Centers for Disease Control at www.pandemicflu.gov.

Sprinklers Are a Part of Effective Fire Prevention

Fire stations, engines and firefighters are highly visible reminders of Sugar Land's investment in fire safety. One of the most efficient and cost-effective tools used to save lives and protect property is the automated fire sprinkler.

Fire sprinklers are designed to put the right amount of water in the right place at the right time, extinguishing the fire with minimal damage.

Sugar Land's stringent automatic fire sprinkler ordinance ensures this technology is incorporated into all new commercial buildings 7,500 square feet and over, such as hotels, motels, apartments, town homes and condos.

Fire prevention personnel review plans, conduct tests and inspect sprinklers and other fire protection systems. This ensures public safety in high-rise buildings, residential apartment complexes, warehouses and storage facilities.



Participating in the Fired-Up 5K is beneficial to your health and to the MDA.

Get Ready to Run in the Fourth Annual Fired-Up 5K

Join the Sugar Land Fire Department and First Colony Community Association for the fourth annual Fired-Up 5K and Family/Youth Walk on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4. The event begins at 7 a.m. at the corner of Commonwealth Boulevard and Elkins Drive, continues through First Colony and concludes at Sugar Land Fire Station 5.

Sugar Land firefighters will display the new HAZMAT vehicle and other equipment and offer fire safety education.

All proceeds from the race will directly benefit a national firefighters' charity, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

Call the First Colony Community Association at 281-634-9555 for more information.

Fire Company Inspections

Sugar Land firefighters continuously work behind the scenes conducting company fire inspections intended to keep the public safe in community buildings. Fire company inspections are performed by firefighting crews known as fire companies, rather than fire inspectors. They include a check of basic fire safety requirements applicable to individual businesses. The crew inspects the building and grounds, documents their findings, discusses the results with the owner/occupant, provides safety information and answers questions. The written inspection report is provided to the owner, and a re-inspection is scheduled if necessary.

The inspection program ensures that buildings include necessary safety standards.

Additionally, firefighters are able to familiarize themselves with building layouts, including internal fire protection systems and features — information that is crucial during a fire.

Sugar Land Police Go Stealth

The Sugar Land Police Department's newest squad car is unlike anything else in the fleet. It's a 2006 Dodge Charger equipped as a stealth vehicle.

The uniqueness of the vehicle makes it ideal for SLPD's new stealth car program, which provides a new enforcement tool to help make streets and highways safer by targeting drunk driving and traffic violators.

"The purpose of traffic enforcement is to change driving behaviors and encourage motorists to comply with traffic laws," said SLPD Assistant Chief Stuart Denton.

"Our goal in traffic enforcement is to save lives, reduce injuries and minimize property loss."

Stealth cars are effective in identifying bad drivers who do not realize there is a police car around them. Most people drive better than normal in the presence of a marked police unit, so

the stealth car allows police to catch bad drivers who normally hide dangerous driving behavior in the presence of a squad car. As an example, the stealth car is expected to address red light and stop sign violators, a concern often cited by Sugar Land citizens.

SLPD's new Charger utilizes subdued silver markings on its silver exterior,

enforcement will use the stealth car at night. During the day, the vehicle will be available for regular traffic enforcement duty and officers conducting traffic enforcement under grants.

The effectiveness of the program and the car in Sugar Land will be evalu-

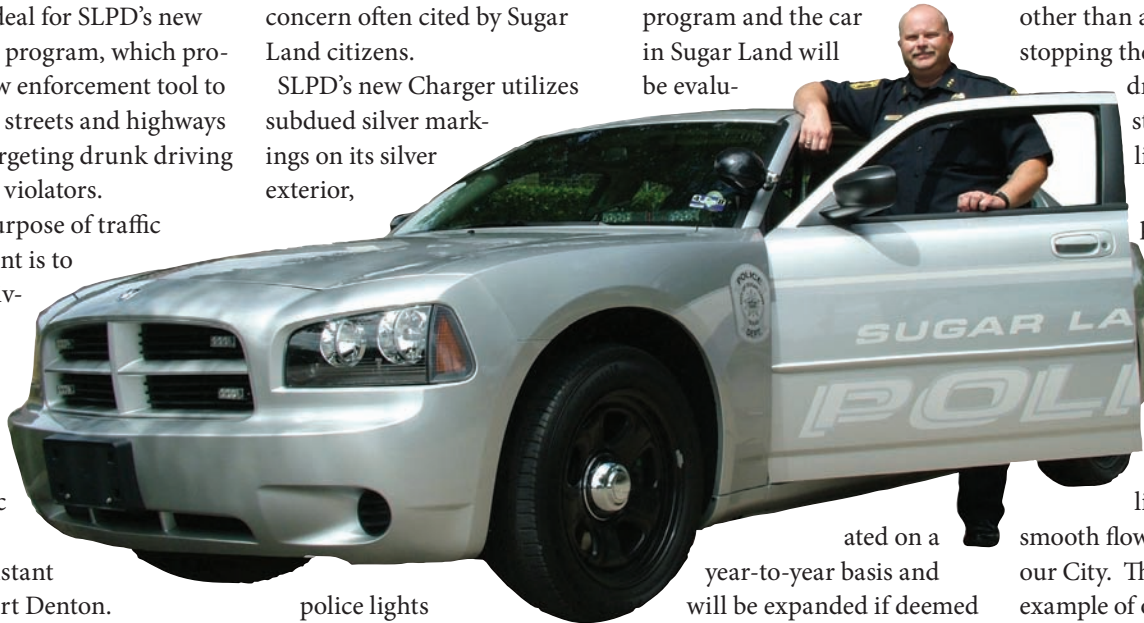
charges related to fleeing from police, evading or failure to stop.

More importantly, SLPD wants to avoid creating doubt as to the legitimacy of traffic stops. If citizens believe someone other than a police officer is stopping them, they should

drive to a police station or a heavily lighted area.

"The stealth car program is intended to help make Sugar Land safer but also to improve mobility," said Denton. "By reducing accidents, we're saving lives and ensuring a

smooth flow of traffic through our City. This program is an example of our continued commitment to evaluate new and creative ways to promote a safe environment in Sugar Land."



police lights hidden behind the grilles and incorporates all enforcement equipment in the interior of the vehicle. It allows officers to blend in with traffic and apprehend violators who are unaware of law enforcement presence.

Officers conducting DWI

ated on a year-to-year basis and will be expanded if deemed necessary. In the meantime, the vehicle is already receiving a thumbs up from motorists more accustomed to standard looking squad cars.

So, why use a stealth vehicle instead of an unmarked car? Texas law requires police cars to be marked in order to enforce

Shown above: SLPD Assistant Chief Stuart Denton and the new stealth car.



Growing Business District Receives Special Police Attention

Sugar Land Police Department formed a Special Enforcement District (SED) in 2005 to focus special attention on a business area with a high density of motorists and pedestrians. The SED includes First Colony Mall, Sugar Land Town Square and Sugar Land Town Center.

James Ives, la Madeleine's

general manager, told Officer Eric Pino that he appreciates SLPD's extra attention to security. "It's nice to know that the City is matching the increased growth in this area with increased police patrols," Ives said.

The SED is within Police Beat 2, but one sergeant and four police officers separately

patrol the special district. This enables the department to focus resources on the business district without affecting units patrolling neighborhoods in Beat 2. Statistics show that over half of SLPD's calls are nonresidential, which justified the creation of a district focusing on the high-density business area.

James Ives (right), la Madeleine's general manager, told Officer Eric Pino that he appreciates SLPD's extra security.

Utility Assistance Program Helps Those in Need

Extend a helping hand to customers who need assistance paying their water/wastewater bills through Sugar Land's Utility Assistance Program. This program is funded solely through your generous donations.

To contribute, simply check the box on your monthly water/wastewater bill labeled "\$1.00

utility assistance" and include the donation when paying your bill. To authorize a monthly contribution, check the box to bill your account in any amount you specify, or visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and select "Treasury Management" under Departments and then "Utility Assistance Program."

For more information on

the City's utility assistance program, call 281-275-2791 or e-mail revenue@sugarlandtx.gov.

Additionally, families that risk losing their water and wastewater services because of financial hardships may contact Fort Bend Social Services at 281-342-7300.

This department determines

eligibility for assistance and processes the case for payment. The guidelines used to determine eligibility include low income, unemployment, disability, single parent households, special financial hardships and persons 65 years of age or older on fixed incomes with no alternative source of funds.

Three Different Payment Options for Utility Bills Offered

Sugar Land has three electronic bill payment options for water/wastewater customers. Two of them, online and telephone options, are easy and safe processes that let customers decide when to send the payment. Deductions from a bank account occur automatically each month.

- To pay your bill online, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and

click on "Water Payments" under Online Services for payment instructions.

- To use the Automated Phone System, call 281-275-2750 and press option 1. Be ready to enter the customer and location identification numbers from the water bill.
- The Automatic Payment Plan electronically deducts payments from customers' bank

accounts. At no cost, funds are automatically drafted on the Friday before the due date each month. Customers still receive monthly water bills to monitor water usage. Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on "Treasury Management" under Departments and then on "Other Payment Options."

Customers who pay by mail

may pick up a one-year supply of pre-addressed envelopes at City Hall, 2700 Town Center Boulevard North. Customers experiencing hardship may obtain a supply of envelopes by mail.

Call 281-275-2750 or e-mail revenue@sugarlandtx.gov to request envelopes and forms or to obtain more information.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget Process Continues

Last March, City management and City Council established the priorities that the fiscal year 2006-2007 budget should address. City departments focus on resources needed to continue to deliver superior services and to achieve City Council strategic planning priorities.

City management reviewed department budget requests and made appropriate adjustments, keeping in mind department business plans, City Council strategic plan-

ning and the six City Council goals (listed on the inside front cover).

The proposed fiscal year 2006-2007 budget was filed with City Council on July 25.

City Council budget workshops are held in August.

A public hearing on the budget will be held at City Council's regular scheduled Aug. 15 meeting.

Adoption of the budget and tax rate are scheduled for the Sept. 19 and 26 City Council meetings, respectively.

Water/Wastewater Rates Among State's Lowest

According to a recent survey conducted by the Texas Municipal League, Sugar Land's water and wastewater rates are below the state average when compared to those rates of 655 cities providing water services and 631 providing wastewater services.

In comparing 24 cities similar in population (56,839 to 120,743), Sugar Land's residential average monthly consumption is 11,000 gallons, compared to the overall average of 9,951

gallons. Sugar Land ranked sixth lowest for 5,000 gallons and seventh for 10,000 gallons consumed. Based on 10,000 gallons, Sugar Land residents pay 15.2 percent, or \$8.99, less than the average bill among these cities.

Sugar Land also compares favorably for commercial use. For commercial accounts with 2-inch water meters, Sugar Land ranked 11th lowest for 50,000 gallons and 10th lowest for 200,000 gallons.

Highway Construction Hits the Road

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) projects on Sugar Land's major highways are under construction. The City encourages residents to drive safely and stay informed about construction changes.

U.S. 59 Expansion

Construction of the U.S. 59 Phase II expansion between State Highway 6 and State Highway 99 (Grand Parkway) is progressing. The bridge demolitions and reconstruction of the University Boulevard and Sweetwater Boulevard interchanges are complete. The City appreciates your patience during these improvements.

Upon completion of this phase in approximately late 2008, this section of U.S. 59 will include eight lanes, two diamond/HOV lanes and continuous frontage roads.

TxDOT will install dynamic message signs at three locations along U.S. 59 in Sugar Land. These signs, similar to those seen on freeways throughout the Houston area, will provide motorists with travel times and other valuable information. The northbound sign will be located just north of State Highway 6,



Completion of State Highway 6 construction is expected in late 2007.

and two southbound signs will be located near Williams Trace Boulevard/Sugar Lakes Drive and U.S. 90A.

U.S. 59 Phase III expansion construction is underway on the proposed U.S. 59 main lanes in the existing freeway median. U.S. 59 and State Highway 99 will be reconstructed so that U.S. 59 main lanes will pass over State Highway 99, with frontage roads at ground level. The demolition and reconstruction work on the existing State Highway 99 bridge over U.S. 59 has been

scheduled for the first quarter of 2007. Completion of this project is scheduled to be in late 2008.

State Highway 6 and U.S. 90 Expansion

Construction continues on U.S. 90A from east of State Highway 6 to Ulrich Street and on State Highway 6 from First Colony Boulevard to north of U.S. 90A. The result will be State Highway 6 passing over University Boulevard and U.S. 90A. Completion is expected in late 2007.

U.S. 90A Expansion

TxDOT will expand U.S. 90A from four to eight lanes from U.S. 59 to Ulrich Street. Plans are for soundwalls along the south side of U.S. 90A by Venetian Estates and Alkire Lake Estates, additional dedicated turn lanes and ornamental traffic signal poles. (Project updates will appear in future issues of *Sugar Land Today*.) The ongoing construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2008.

Traffic Management Center Receives National Recognition

Sugar Land's Traffic Management Center (TMC) recently earned the American Public Works Association's 2006 *Transportation Project of the Year* award for Texas and will compete for the national award to be announced later this summer.

The award recognizes

the TMC's cumulative accomplishments. In 1997, the City owned and operated one traffic signal, and the state owned and operated all others in Sugar Land. As the City has grown and taken responsibility for all 68 of its traffic signals, the technology-driven TMC manages all

signals and related data. The TMC facilitates a smooth flow of traffic during heavy traffic flows and assists emergency response teams by reducing their response times.

Since 2001, the City has received more than \$3 million in grant funding for

traffic management. Planning for further improvements continues, including the use of federal grant funds to allow the TMC and Houston TranStar to view each other's cameras. Houston TranStar currently is installing cameras on U.S. 59 in Fort Bend County.

Drainage Projects Vital To Community Safety

Sugar Land's drainage management projects are one of its top priorities.

While drainage infrastructure held up well during previous major storms, the City has not taken that for granted.

Master Drainage Plan

Sugar Land residents will benefit from projects and priorities being identified in the Master Drainage Plan, which currently is being updated. The plan serves as the basis for formulating drainage projects to include in Sugar Land's Capital Improvements Program (see list below). The update will also establish responsibilities and ownership of the major infrastructure components (including Oyster Creek and Ditch H) and clarify the roles of numerous overlapping entities, including Fort Bend County Drainage District (FBCDD), Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 and levee improvement districts.

Capital Improvements

To ensure community safety during rainfall events, the following drainage projects are included in the City's 2007-2011 Capital Improvements Program:

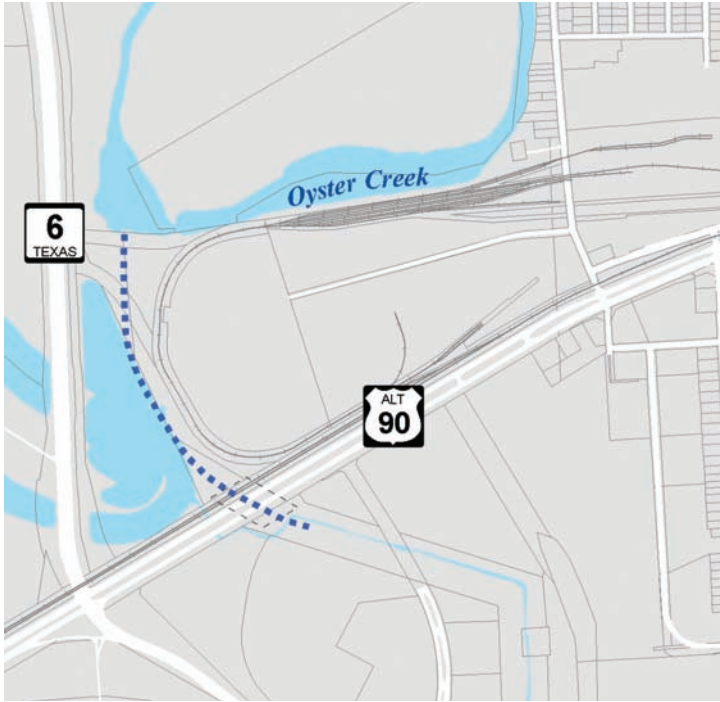
- **Ditch H Extension From Current Location (just South of U.S. 90A) to Oyster Creek:** extend Ditch H to existing culvert under U.S. 90A and under the railroad to Oyster Creek just north of U.S. 90A. (See page 11 article.)
- **Sugar Creek Center/Market Place at Sugar Land:** extend the existing Texas Department of Transportation facility at the U.S. 90A/U.S. 59 intersec-



The AMIL Gates are located across the Brooks Lake Diversion channel near the corner of Brooks Street and State Highway 6. They serve as flood control gates during extreme events and help divert flow from Oyster Creek to the Brazos River via Ditch H. Under normal conditions, the gates also help maintain a constant water level upstream for aesthetic purposes. They are designed to operate without power or motor and require very little manual intervention.

tion, to facilitate development of vacant tracts in the triangle located between U.S. 90A, U.S. 59 and Commerce Green.

- **Storm Sewer Inlet/Apron Reconstruction:** annual project to remove and replace failed inlet aprons, inlet hoods and reseal inlet boxes if required.
- **Installation of Additional Weather Stations in the A-22 Channel Watershed:** enhances the existing network of flow/rain gauges to monitor data collection.
- **U.S. 90A Ditch Improvements:** from Eldridge Road to Dairy Ashford Road and the construction of a regional detention pond to add drainage capacity and to accommodate development in the southern portion of the Business Park.
- **Channel Improvements Sweetwater at Ditch A:** install approximately 2,200 square yards of concrete slope paving under the structures to prevent erosion.
- **Additional Inlets Along Maygrove Drive/Covington Woods:** construct additional inlets to provide relief from street flooding during smaller rainfall events.
- **Ditch A-22 Modifications:** improvements to restrictors within the A-22 channel to improve drainage conditions in the Sugar Mill area.
- **Dulles Avenue:** preliminary drainage study to improve street drainage along roadside ditches that are within the City's right-of-way between Avenue E and U.S. 90A.
- **Sugar Creek Watershed Drainage Study:** completed in 2005 with recommended capital improvement projects to include construction of lakes/detention facilities within the Riverbend Country Club Golf Course (RBCC). This project would provide additional storage capacity within the golf course to support future improvements. The City is currently in discussions with RBCC to evaluate partnership opportunities in implementing this project.
- **Comprehensive Study of the Sugar Mill Watershed:** Soon to be authorized by the City to investigate concerns of high ponding within Sugar Mill subdivisions during extreme rain events and to propose relief projects to improve drainage conditions.



Ditch H will be extended from south of U.S. 90A to Oyster Creek.

Oyster Creek Drainage To be Improved

Sugar Land and Fort Bend County Drainage District (FBCDD) are taking steps to improve drainage conditions along Oyster Creek. They have completed a preliminary engineering study for extending Ditch H to Oyster Creek. Currently Ditch H extends from the Brazos River to just south of U.S. 90A. Extending Ditch H to Oyster Creek and facilitating flow diversion from Oyster Creek to Ditch H will help to lower water surface elevations in Oyster Creek during extreme events.

This extension to Oyster Creek will include installation of reinforced concrete pipe culverts underneath the railroad and excavation of an open channel that will convey flow from Oyster Creek to a proposed hydraulic structure just north of the railroad. This

structure will also help flow transition from Oyster Creek to the recently installed box culverts underneath U.S. 90A.

Construction is expected to begin in 2007 and anticipated to last just over a year. Estimated construction cost is approximately \$6 million. The City and FBCDD plan to share the cost equally.

This project was first identified in the 2002 Upper Oyster Creek and Ditch H Drainage Study, which was performed jointly by FBCDD, the City and Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 2.

Though the City is a joint participant, FBCDD is taking the lead role in managing the project. The project will also require extensive coordination with other agencies such as the Texas Department of Transportation and the Union Pacific Railroad.

Trim Your Trees to Meet Requirements

Tree branches are reaching new heights around Sugar Land as residents work to comply with the tree trimming requirements established in August 2005. The requirements will ensure public safety by giving large vehicles, such as fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks, the clearance they need and by giving stop signs and traffic signals better visibility. The requirements are:

- Where the tree overhangs a residential street, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.
- Where the tree overhangs a non-residential street, there must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

For large limbs and limbs that can't safely be reached, Sugar Land recommends hir-

ing a professional arborist.

Demonstrating proper pruning technique is Margaret Hall Spencer, a certified arborist who is First Colony Community Association's landscape manager and a Keep Sugar Land Beautiful board member.

"Trees are valuable assets to your property value and the environment, and pruning involves making good decisions for the health of the tree. Try to keep it simple. Use tools that are sharp and clean, and prune only the lower limbs required for clearance, as well as any broken or dead branches. Heavy thinning of interior branches is not necessary and is not healthy for trees," she said.

Visit www.kslb.org to find out about KSLB's tree care classes. For more on the City's tree trimming ordinance, call 281-275-2450.



FCCA's Margaret Hall Spencer demonstrates how to properly trim a tree at the outside edge of the branch where it meets the trunk, also known as the branch collar.

Water Meter Reading Made Easy

In most residential front yards is a rectangular box with a plastic lid. Inside lies the water meter, a resident's key to seeing their water usage and detecting leaks.

By reading the meter at the beginning and end of each activity, you can discover how much water your irrigation system or a particular appliance uses. You can also check for leaks.

Step 1: Take a look inside

Carefully remove the lid after examining the area around the meter for harmful insects or animals.

Step 2: Read your usage

Water meters are read from left to right in gallons. Subtract the initial reading from the last one to determine the amount of water usage.

Step 3: Do you have a water leak?

Most City meters have a red leak indicator on the dial. If this indicator is spinning while no water is being used, you may

have a water leak.

Testing to see if you have a leak is best done when no water is being used and you will be away from home for four or more hours. Record the meter reading and the position of the sweep hand. When you return, read the meter again and subtract the second reading from the first. This is the number of gallons that passed through the meter during the test period. If the number has increased with no water usage, you most likely have a water leak.

Toilets are the most common water leak and can usually be easily remedied by replacing the flapper.

Who's Responsible?

The City is responsible for leaks from the meter to the water main located in the right-of-way area. Homeowners are responsible for leaks from the meter to and inside the house.

For water leaks on the City line, call 281-275-2450 anytime day or night.

Mosquito Reduction Initiatives

Sugar Land now treats more open drainage ditches within the City's rights-of-way and storm sewer systems with larvicide. The City also sprays for adult mosquitoes along City streets every Friday and may do supplemental spraying between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. from May to late fall.

Even with increased mosquito reduction efforts, we still need residents' help. Reduce mosquito habitat in your area with these techniques:

- Remove anything that will hold stagnant water, such as tires and buckets.
 - Fill in or drain any low places in your yard.
 - Keep drains and ditches clear of weeds and trash so water can properly drain.
 - Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
 - Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
 - Change the water in bird-baths, plant pots and drip trays at least once a week.
- Call 281-275-2450 for more information.

Conserve Water and Save \$\$

- Turn off the preprogrammed/automatic feature of your sprinkler systems and only water your lawn when it really needs it. If your grass springs up after being walked on it does not need watering.
- Use drip irrigation systems for landscaping, and make sure your sprinklers are not "watering" paved surfaces.
- Water slowly and deeply during early morning hours.
- Keep your grass about 2 to 3 inches high to shade the roots and reduce its water need.

More tips on water conservation are available by searching on "water conservation tips" at www.sugarlandtx.gov.



Color Your Garden Green

Would you like to have the best looking yard in your neighborhood? Get a solid landscaping and gardening foundation through the Green Thumb Seminars. The free monthly seminars are designed for busy homeowners who want to learn more but can't make the commitment to completing the full Master Gardener program.

Residents can learn about plant growth and disease control on Sept. 14, soil and composting on Oct. 12 and tree care on Nov. 9.

Topics in 2007 include fruits and vegetables, plant propagation, plants that thrive in Fort Bend, bird and butterfly gardening, landscape planning and renovation and pest management.

To see the full schedule

Green Thumb Seminars

The second Thursday evening of each month (except December)
7 to 9 p.m.

Eldridge Park Conference Center

2511 Eldridge Road

Sponsored by City of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County Master Gardeners

through July 2007, visit the Fort Bend Master Gardeners at www.fbmng.com/. Scroll down to Community Education and click on "Green Thumb Seminar." Contact the Public Works Department at 281-275-2450 or Mary Beth McCaughey, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners president, at 281-565-4658 for more information.

Seniors To Hit The Road

Marksville

Tuesday and Wednesday,
Aug. 22 and 23

Depart at 8 a.m.

We're off to the Paragon Casino in Marksville, Louisiana. Cost for residents is \$40 per person for a double room and \$65 per person for a single room. Cost for nonresidents is \$50 per person for a double room and \$81.25 per person for a single room. Cost includes hotel, transportation, \$15 cash perks and an \$8 meal voucher. Fees are due at registration.

Gulf Greyhound Park

Friday, Sept. 15

Depart at 11 a.m.

Sugar Land Seniors are going to the dogs! Cost is \$30 for residents and \$37.50 for nonresidents and includes a buffet lunch.

San Jacinto Monument

Friday, Sept. 29

Depart at 9 a.m.

We're heading to the newly renovated San Jacinto Monument. Cost is \$15 for residents and \$18.75 for nonresidents. Lunch not included.

Call 281-275-2885 to register for these trips. We reserve the right to cancel if trips do not meet the minimum number of participants two weeks beforehand.

Get Your Costumes Ready

For more information on these frighteningly fun events, call 281-275-2885.

Boo Bash

Saturday, Oct. 28

5 to 9 p.m.

Sugar Land Community Center

Dress up in your scariest Halloween costume and compete for great prizes at the Boo Bash, which provides a safe and fun alternative to trick-or-treating for all ages. Admission for the community is free. Game tickets are 25¢ each.

Senior Monster Mash

Tuesday, Oct. 31

5 to 8 p.m.

Sugar Land Community Center

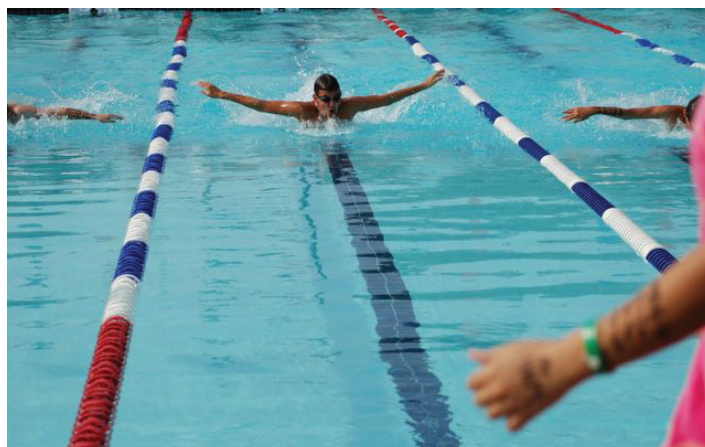
Goblins, clowns and other creatures will have a hauntingly good time dancing to the Johnny Dyson Band's spooky sounds. Show off your carving skills in the best-decorated pumpkin contest. Contest rules are available at the Parks and Recreation Department office, where you'll also find pre-sale tickets for residents and nonresidents. Ticket prices are \$4 (single) and \$6 (couple) for residents, and \$5 (single) and \$7.50 (couple) for nonresidents. Prices slightly higher at the door.

Swimmers Take Note

The City Pool, located at Wood and 7th streets, will be open daily through Aug. 20 from noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 11 a.m.

to 8 p.m. on weekends.

It will be open the following two weekends, Aug. 26-27 and Sept. 2-4, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., after which it will be closed for the season.



SUGAR LAND TOWN SQUARE HAPPENINGS

Aug. 11

Concert Series:
Guppies from Outer Space
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Aug. 12

Wilfred Chevis Band
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Aug. 18

Dancing Under the Stars
7:30-9 p.m.
Presented by Houstonian Lite Health Club: *Line Dancing*

Aug. 19

Movie under the Moon
E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial
8:45 p.m.

Aug. 25

Karaoke Night
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Aug. 26

Sugar Land Superstar Final Competition
7-9 p.m.

Sept. 8

Concert Series:
Grupo Ka-Che
7-9 p.m.

Sept. 9

Sugar Land Art Show
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sept. 15

Dancing Under the Stars
7:30-9 p.m.
Presented by Houstonian Lite Health Club: *Two Step*

Sept. 16

Movie Under the Moon
8:45 p.m.

Sept. 23

Snow & Shopping
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information:

www.sugarlandtownsquare.com

Leisure Activities

Call 281-275-2885 for registration information

Karate

When: Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Dec. 5
 Beginner: (ages 5-12)
 6 – 7 p.m.
 Advanced: (ages 5-12)
 7 – 8 p.m.
 Adult: (ages 13-70) 8 – 9 p.m.
Where: Eldridge Park
 Community Center
Fee: Resident: \$40 per 11-week
 session plus \$30 per uniform
 (required)
 Nonresident: \$50 per 11-week
 session plus \$30 per uniform
 (required)



Jazzercise

When: Mondays, Wednesdays
 and Fridays: 8:15 a.m.,
 9:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m.
 Tuesdays: 5:40 p.m.
 Thursdays: 9:30 a.m., 5:40 p.m.
 Saturdays: 8 a.m., 9 a.m.
Where: First Colony
 Community Center
Fee info: 281-437-7157
 and www.fortbendjazz.com

Tai Chi

When: Beginner:
 Wednesdays, 7 – 8 p.m.
 (No other classes offered)
Where: Sugar Land
 Community Center
Ages: 14 – Adult
Fee: Resident: \$7 per class
 Nonresident: \$8.75 per class



Line Dancing

**Intermediate to
 Advanced:**
Instructor: Laddie De Rouen
When: Wednesdays, 1 – 3 p.m.
Where: Sugar Land
 Community Center
Ages: Adult
Fee: Resident:
 \$12 per month
 Nonresident:
 \$15 per month

Duplicate Bridge

All experience levels are welcome.

Instructor: Sue Williams
When: Tuesdays from 9 a.m.
 – 12:30 p.m. and the second,
 fourth and fifth (when applicable)
 Thursdays of the month from 1
 – 4:30 p.m.
Where: First Colony
 Community Center
Fee: Resident: \$4 per game
 Nonresident: \$5 per game
Information: 281-980-9588

Ballet Flamenco

Sessions in September, October
 and November
A minimum of 3 students is required.
Instructor: Yvonne Robertson
Where: Lost Creek Conference
 Center
Levels:
Beginner: (ages 6-18, must turn 6
 before Sept. 1):
 Mon. and Thurs. 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.
Intermediate: (ages 5-18):
 Mon. 5:20 – 6:20 p.m. and
 Thurs. 5:20 – 6:40 p.m.
Monthly Fee for all levels:
 Resident: \$70
 Nonresident: \$87.50



Improve Your Serve With Tennis Lessons

Want to better your
 backhand and
 improve your serve?
 You'll love Sugar Land's
 tennis lessons taught by
 Fort Bend Tennis Services
 instructors. Aspiring and
 experienced players from

ages 4½ on up will net
 some knowledge at these
 sessions at City Park and
 Slockett Park courts.

View the schedule on
fortbendtennis.com or call
 281-980-4219 for more
 information.





Senior Citizens Center To Expand

The Senior Center expansion will begin in early fall with a grand opening expected in early 2007. The Parks and Recreation Department administration offices are now located across the hall. Stop by 200 Matlage Way to check out the Senior Center plans!

Meet Your Friends at Saturday Night LYF

Who: Sugar Land high school students and residents between the ages of 14 and 18

What: Saturday Night LYF, a safe and happening place to chill out each month

When: From 7 to 11 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month through December (except for October when it falls on the first Saturday). Save the dates: Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

Where: LYF Center, 13444 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2 (A partnership with Sugar Creek Baptist Church and the City of Sugar Land, the Saturday Night LYF program welcomes teens from all walks of life.)

Why: To meet your friends and enjoy food, music, video games and board games

Info: Parks and Recreation at 281-275-2885, or search "Saturday Night LYF" on www.sugarlandtx.gov.



City Focuses on Neighborhood Integrity

Significant portions of the City developed more than 25 years ago. As neighborhoods age, a transition can begin from stable, livable neighborhoods to those characterized by declining property conditions and values. Once an area has completed this transition, it is difficult to reverse the outcome. This pattern has occurred in the southwest Houston area, and historically has moved in the direction of Sugar Land.

Cities have been successful in deterring this decline by first understanding there is a real threat and second, by implementing proven strategies to enhance and preserve the integrity of neighborhoods. As a result, the Community and Environmental Services department has been created to focus resources on a comprehensive and concerted neighborhood sustainability program. The department contains the Code Enforcement and Health and Sanitation divisions and is led by Mike Goodrum.

The new department will take the lead in fostering partnerships with homeowner associations, neighborhoods and residents to build and preserve a high quality of life for all Sugar Land residents. Initial efforts will include:

- Extensive education and outreach efforts to teach residents the importance of proper home maintenance and their property maintenance responsibilities under the Code of Ordinances.
- Addressing code enforcement issues early on to enable residents to eliminate avoidable costly repairs and help ensure the neighborhood is a desirable place to live. For example, instead of waiting for things to reach a level where a nuisance violation must be issued, the department will be more proactive, ensuring the exterior of structures have adequate paint or protective treatments and are not rotting.

Call 281-275-2321 for more information.

calendar

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to confirm City events. For Town Square events, visit www.sugarlandtownsquare.com.

	Date	Event	Time	Location
SEPTEMBER		National Preparedness Month		
	2-4	Municipal Pool open	11 a.m. – 8 p.m.	City Park
	4	Labor Day – City offices closed – Regular solid waste collection occurs		
	4	Fired-Up 5K	7 a.m.	Corner of Commonwealth Blvd. and Elkins Dr.
	5	Municipal Pool closed for season		
	5, 19, 26	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	6, 7	Safe Driving AARP	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	200 Matlage Way
	12	Parks Board meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	12, 28	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	28	Youth Sports Association meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall Annex
OCTOBER	3, 17, 24	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	7	Crime Prevention Fair	To be determined	Info: 281-275-2578
	10	Parks Board meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	10, 26	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	19	HOA Representative meeting	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	26	Youth Sports Association meeting	6 p.m.	City Hall Annex
	28	Boo Bash	5 – 9 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	31	Senior Monster Mash	5 – 8 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center



City of Sugar Land
P.O. Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110

PRST STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUGAR LAND, TX.
Permit No. 8

POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of Sugar Land offices
will be closed Monday,
Labor Day, Sept. 4.

Regular solid waste collection
will occur.